

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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R 101551Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2042

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PU, NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN CONTRIBUTION TO GUINEA BISSAU

1. PAIGC SECRETARY GENERAL ARISTEDES PEREIRA, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS FOREIGN MINISTER, VICTOR MARIA, FLEW INTO LAGOS DURING WEEK OF DECEMBER 3 AND HELD TALKS WITH GOWON DECEMBER 6 ON SITUATION IN GUINEA BISSAU. DURING TALKS GOWON ANNOUNCED NIGERIAN CONTRIBUTION OF LIRA 500,000 (\$750,000) TO REPUBLIC OF GUINEA BISSAU TO ENABLE IT TO BUILD AND CONSOLIDATE ITS ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS. GOWON ALSO GAVE ASSURANCES OF NIGERIA'S CONTINUED MORAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT TO PEOPLE OF GUINEA BISSAU.

2. AT AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE DECEMBER 8 PRIOR
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HIS DEPARTURE FROM LAGOS, PEREIRA APPEALED FOR

ALL PEACE LOVING NATIONS TO RECOGNIZE GUINEA
BISSAU SO THAT IT COULD TAKE ITS SEAT IN THE UN.
HE ALSO SAID HIS GOVERNMENT NEEDED AID TO REINFORCE
ITS ADMINISTRATION, TO DEVELOP HIS COUNTRY'S
ECONOMY AND TO HELP IN ORGANIZING ACTIVITIES
ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE. IMMEDIATE TASK
HE SAID WAS TO DEVELOP COMMERCE WITH OUTSIDE
WORLD WHILE LIBERATION WAR CONTINUES. HE
CHARGED NATO COUNTRIES WERE NOT FACING
REALITIES OF SITUATION AND CLAIMED THAT
60,000 OUT OF 80,000 POPULATION IN GUINEA
BISSAU WAS CONTROLLED BY HIS GOVERNMENT.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO DETAILS RE
WHAT TRANSPIRED DURING TALKS BETWEEN PEREIRA
AND GOWON, IT WOULD APPEAR, JUDGING FROM
PEREIRA'S PRESS CONFERENCE, THAT DISCUSSIONS
REVOLVED AROUND GAINING MORE RESPECTABILITY
FOR GUINEA BISSAU. ASSUME FURTHER STRATEGY
WAS MAPPED OUT FOR EVENTUAL APPLICATION FOR UN
MEMBERSHIP. FMG CONTRIBUTION TO REPUBLIC OF
GUINEA BISSAU APPEARS TO BE LARGEST TO DATE
GIVEN BY AFRICAN COUNTRY AND MAY SUGGEST FMG
WILLINGNESS TO CHAMPION MORE FORCEFULLY GUINEA
BISSAU CAUSE IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL FORA.
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